

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 11, and 13 as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated with strikethrough and/or added terms are indicated with underscoring. Please add new claims 21-24. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). An air bag device comprising: an air bag which is accommodated in a folded state along sides of a seat back and a seat cushion of a seat for an occupant and which is adapted to be expanded by a gas generated by an inflator upon side collision of a vehicle to be deployed between an inner surface of a side of a vehicle compartment and the occupant,

wherein the air bag comprises a protruding portion in the folded state, the protruding portion extending laterally outward from a side of a seat cushion so that the protruding portion is disposed outside a lap belt of a seat belt device provided with the seat.

Claim 2 (original). An air bag device according to claim 1, further including an air bag cover enclosing said air bag in the folded state, said air bag and said air bag cover are disposed at least partially within said seat.

Claim 3 (currently amended). An air bag device according to claim 2, wherein said air bag cover includes a protrusion at a location corresponding to said protruding portion of

the airbag, the protrusion disposed outside of said seat and enclosing a portion of said air bag, said lap belt extends between said protrusion and said seat.

Claim 4 (original). An air bag device according to claim 3, further including a cover disposed over said protrusion.

Claim 5 (original). An air bag device according to claim 2, wherein said lap belt extends between said air bag cover and the occupant.

Claim 6 (original). An air bag device according to claim 2, wherein a vertically extending portion of said lap belt is disposed between said air bag cover and the occupant.

Claim 7 (original). An air bag device according to claim 1, further including an air bag cover enclosing said air bag in the folded state, said air bag and said air bag cover are disposed within said seat.

Claim 8 (original). An air bag device according to claim 1, wherein when said air bag is deployed it connects an upper end of said seat back and a front end of the seat cushion.

Claim 9 (original). An air bag device according to claim 2, wherein said air bag cover includes a first portion embedded in the seat back, a second portion embedded in the seat cushion, and a flexible portion connecting the first and second portions.

Claim 10 (original). An air bag device according to claim 7, wherein a bore is formed through said seat cushion inwardly of said air bag cover, said lap belt extends through said bore.

Claim 11 (currently amended). An air bag device comprising:

an air bag which is accommodated in a folded state along sides of a seat back and a seat cushion of a seat for an occupant of a vehicle;

an inflator which generates a gas to the air bag upon side collision of the vehicle to be deployed between an inner surface of a side of a vehicle compartment and the occupant,

wherein the air bag comprises a protruding portion in the folded state, the protruding portion extending laterally outward from a side of a seat cushion so that the protruding portion is disposed outside a lap belt of a seat belt device provided with the seat such that no portion of the air bag is between the lap belt and the occupant.

Claim 12 (original). An air bag device according to claim 11, further including an air bag cover enclosing said air bag in the folded state, said air bag and said air bag cover are disposed at least partially within said seat.

Claim 13 (currently amended). An air bag device according to claim 12, wherein said air bag cover includes a protrusion at a location corresponding to the protruding

portion of the airbag, the protrusion disposed outside of said seat and enclosing a portion of said air bag, said lap belt extends between said protrusion and said seat.

Claim 14 (original). An air bag device according to claim 13, further including a cover disposed over said protrusion.

Claim 15 (original). An air bag device according to claim 12, wherein said lap belt extends between said air bag cover and the occupant.

Claim 16 (original). An air bag device according to claim 12, wherein a vertically extending portion of said lap belt is disposed between said air bag cover and the occupant.

Claim 17 (original). An air bag device according to claim 11, further including an air bag cover enclosing said air bag in the folded state, said air bag and said air bag cover are disposed within said seat.

Claim 18 (original). An air bag device according to claim 11, wherein when said air bag is deployed it connects an upper end of said seat back and a front end of the seat cushion.

Claim 19 (original). An air bag device according to claim 12, wherein said air bag cover includes a first portion embedded in the seat back, a second portion embedded in the seat cushion, and a flexible portion connecting the first and second portions.

Claim 20 (original). An air bag device according to claim 17, wherein a bore is formed through said seat cushion inwardly of said air bag cover, said lap belt extends through said bore.

Claim 21 (new). An air bag device according to claim 1, wherein the protrusion is substantially U-shaped so as to comprise a pair of parallel leg portions connected at one end by a base portion, wherein the leg portions extend generally horizontally outward from said side of a seat cushion, and wherein the lap belt extends within an opening provided between said side of a seat cushion, said leg portions, and said base portion.

Claim 22 (new). An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein the airbag further comprises a transition portion, the transition portion comprising a portion of the airbag which extends between the seat back and the seat cushion, the transition portion being spaced apart from the protruding portion.

Claim 23 (new). An air bag device according to claim 1, wherein the protrusion is substantially U-shaped so as to comprise a pair of parallel leg portions connected at one end by a base portion, wherein the leg portions extend generally horizontally outward

from said side of a seat cushion, and wherein the lap belt extends within an opening provided between said side of a seat cushion, said leg portions, and said base portion.

Claim 24 (new). An airbag device according to claim 1, wherein the airbag further comprises a transition portion, the transition portion comprising a portion of the airbag which extends between the seat back and the seat cushion, the transition portion being spaced apart from the protruding portion.